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**MAILED**

**JUN 21 2010**

**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Patent No. 6,986,953  
Issue Date: January 17, 2006 :  
Application No. 10/766,729 : DECISION ON PETITION  
Filed: January 28, 2004 :

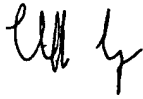
This is a decision on the petition to reinstate an expired patent under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed March 26, 2010.

The petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c) is **GRANTED**.

The above-identified patent issued January 17, 2006. Accordingly, the first maintenance fee could have been paid during the period from January 17, 2009 through July 17, 2009 without surcharge, or with a late payment surcharge during the period from January 18, 2009 through January 17, 2010. No maintenance fee having been received, the patent expired on January 18, 2010.

Since the instant petition was filed within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c). The maintenance fee in this case is accepted and the above-identified patent is hereby reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

Telephone inquiries specific to this decision may be directed to the undersigned at (571)272-3207.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cliff Congo'.

Cliff Congo  
Petitions Attorney  
Office of Petitions